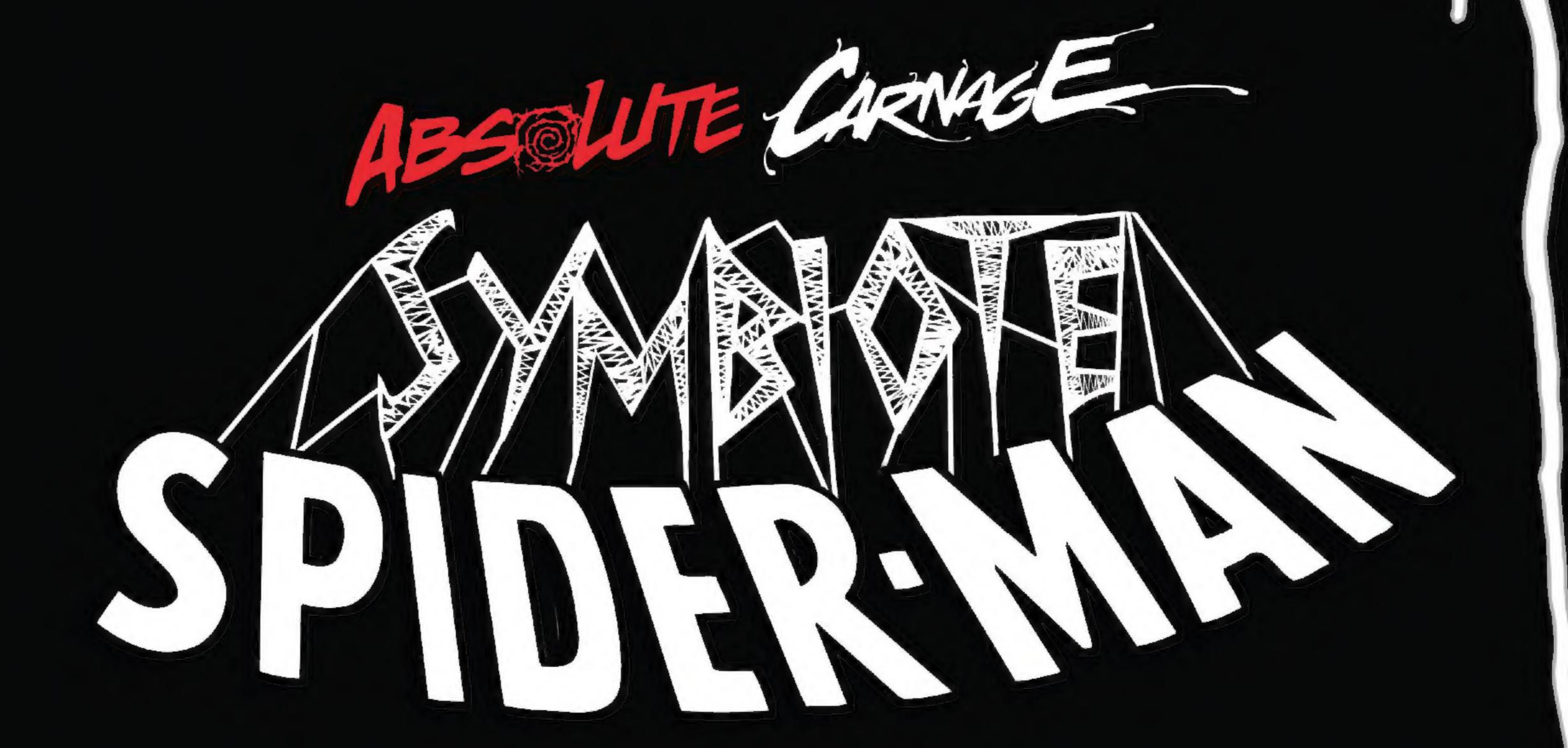


WHEN SPIDER-MAN LEARNED THAT HIS ALL-BLACK COSTUME WAS A SENTIENT BEING KNOWN AS A SYMBIOTE, HE HAD REED RICHARDS EXTRACT AND CONTAIN THE LIVING SUIT...THAT IS, UNTIL IT BROKE OUT AND ATTACHED ITSELF TO A TOURIST FROM INDIANA AND USED HIM TO SWING BACK TO PETER PARKER'S APARTMENT.

THIS SYMBIOTE WOULD EVENTUALLY BOND WITH

THIS SYMBIOTE WOULD EVENTUALLY BOND WITH EDDIE BROCK AND BECOME VENOM...BUT WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT TOURIST?



PETER DAVID WRITER FRANCESCO MOBILI ARTIST

JAVA TARTAGLIA & RAIN BEREDO COLOR ARTISTS VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM LETTERER

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #99 & 100 PAGES BY AL MILGROM, HERB TRIMPE, JIM MOONEY, GEOF ISHERWOOD, BOB SHAREN, A. KAOTIC, JOE ROSEN & DIANA ALBERS

GREG LAND, JAY LEISTEN & FRANK D'ARMATA COVER ARTISTS

GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA; MIKE HAWTHORNE & DAVE McCAIG VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

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C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF CHI

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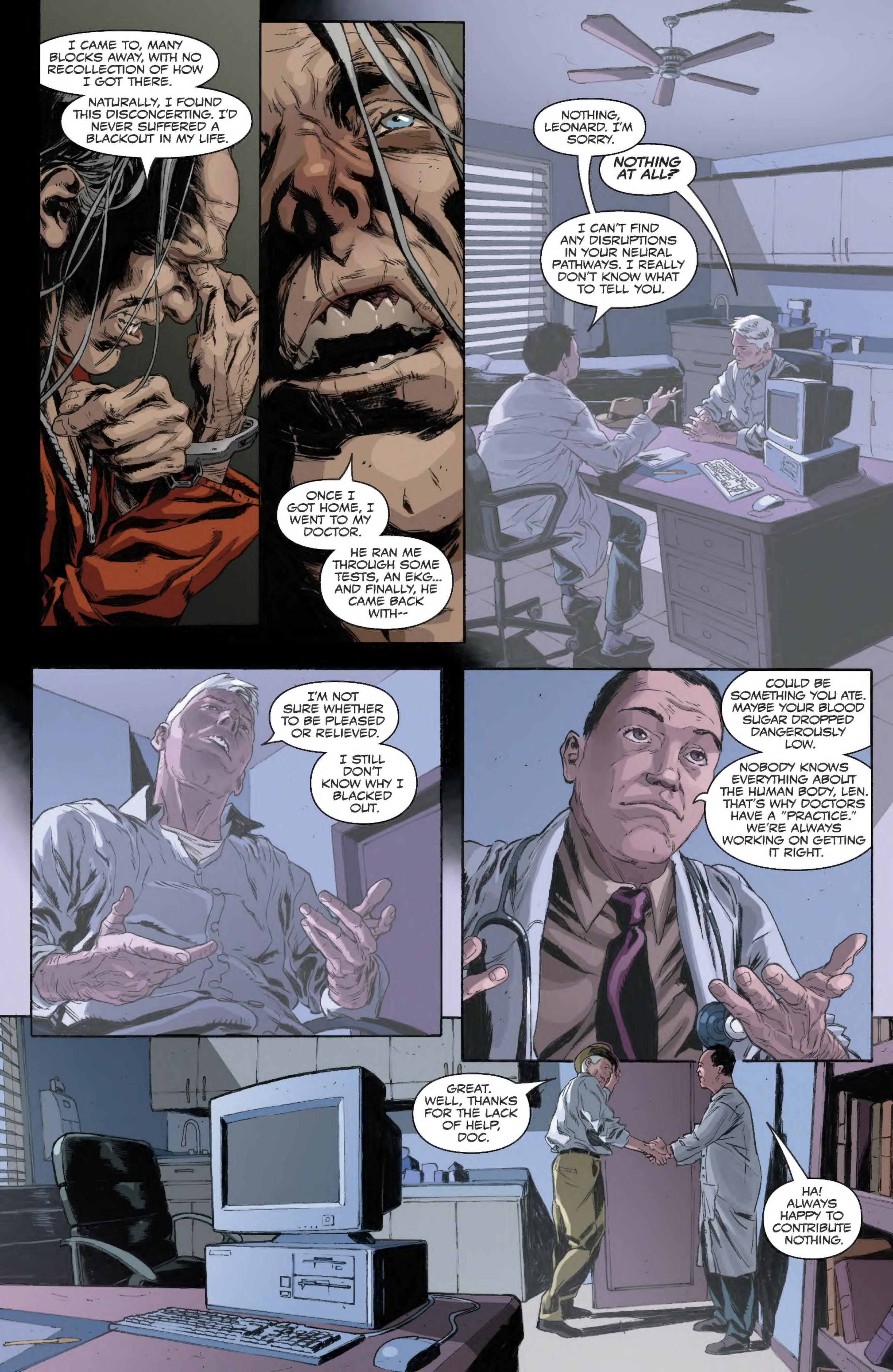
SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

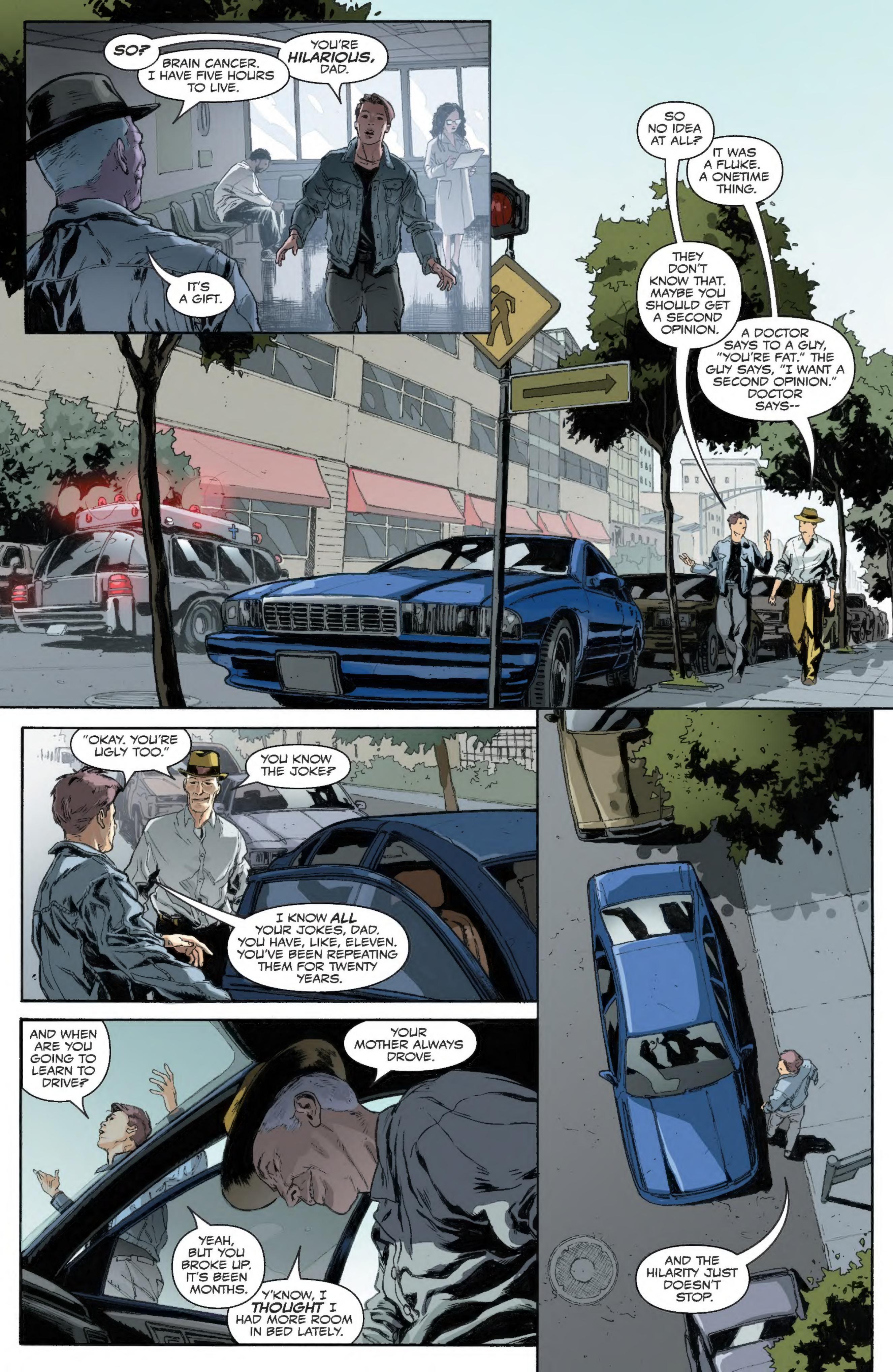


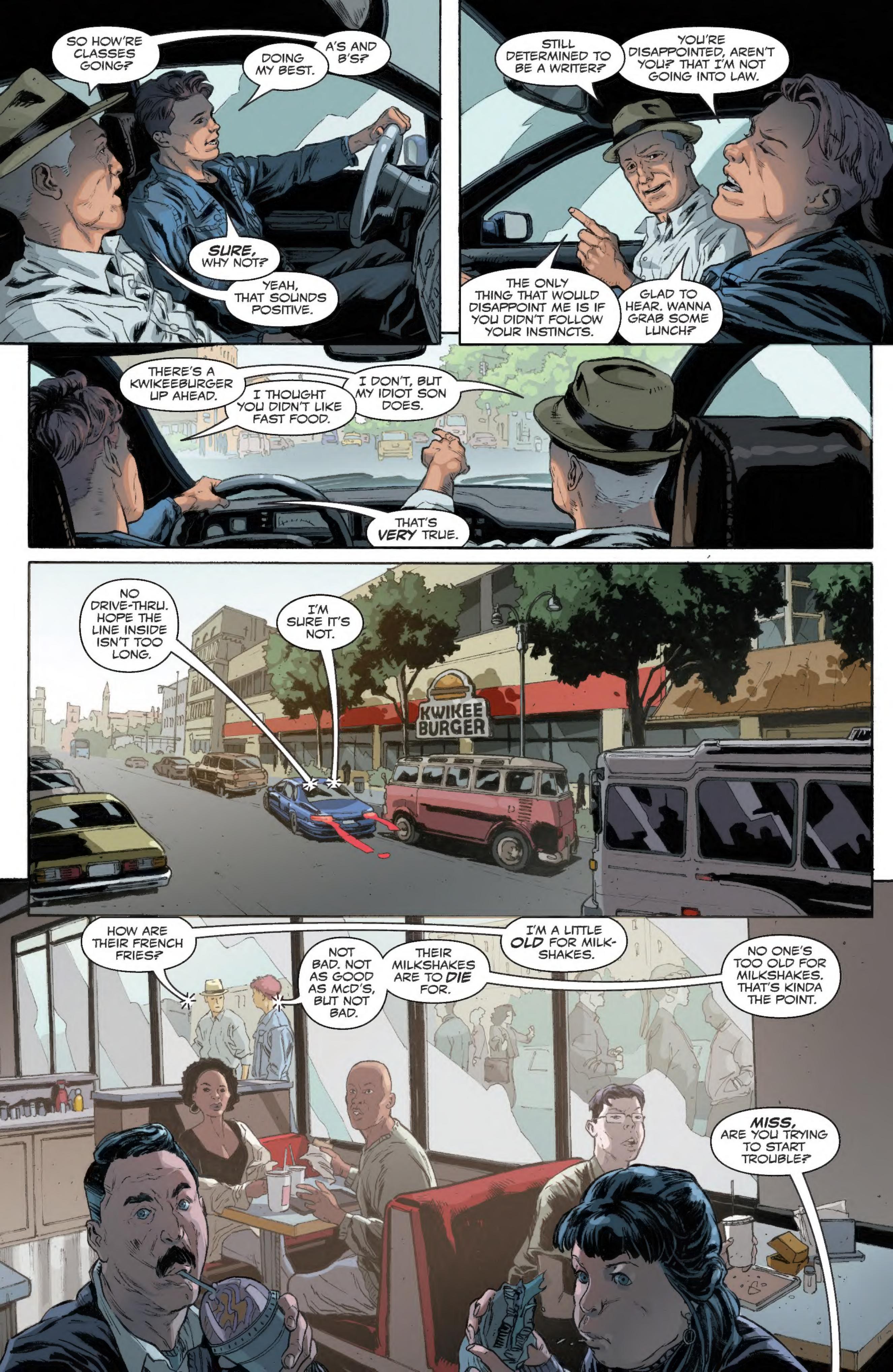
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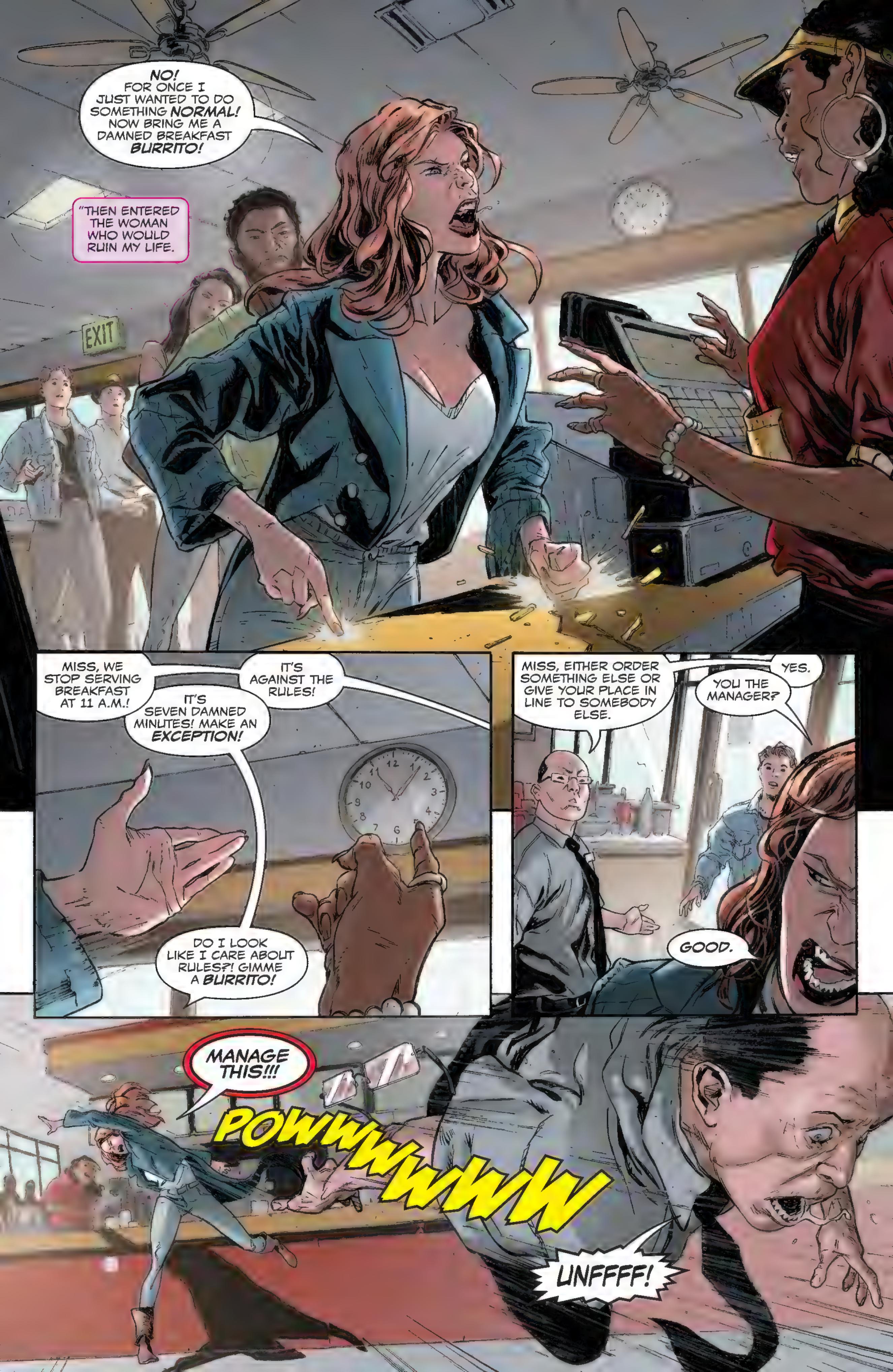










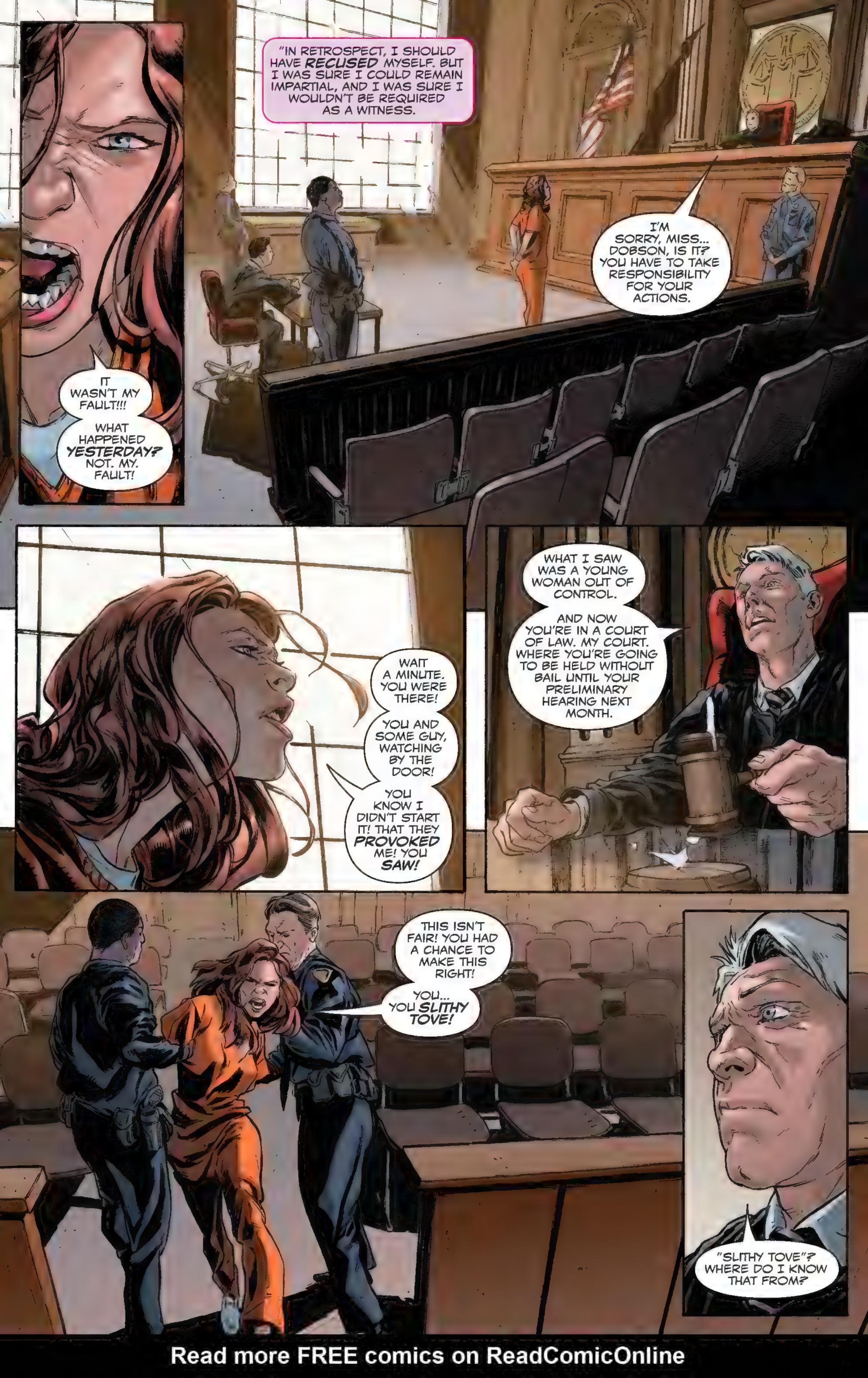








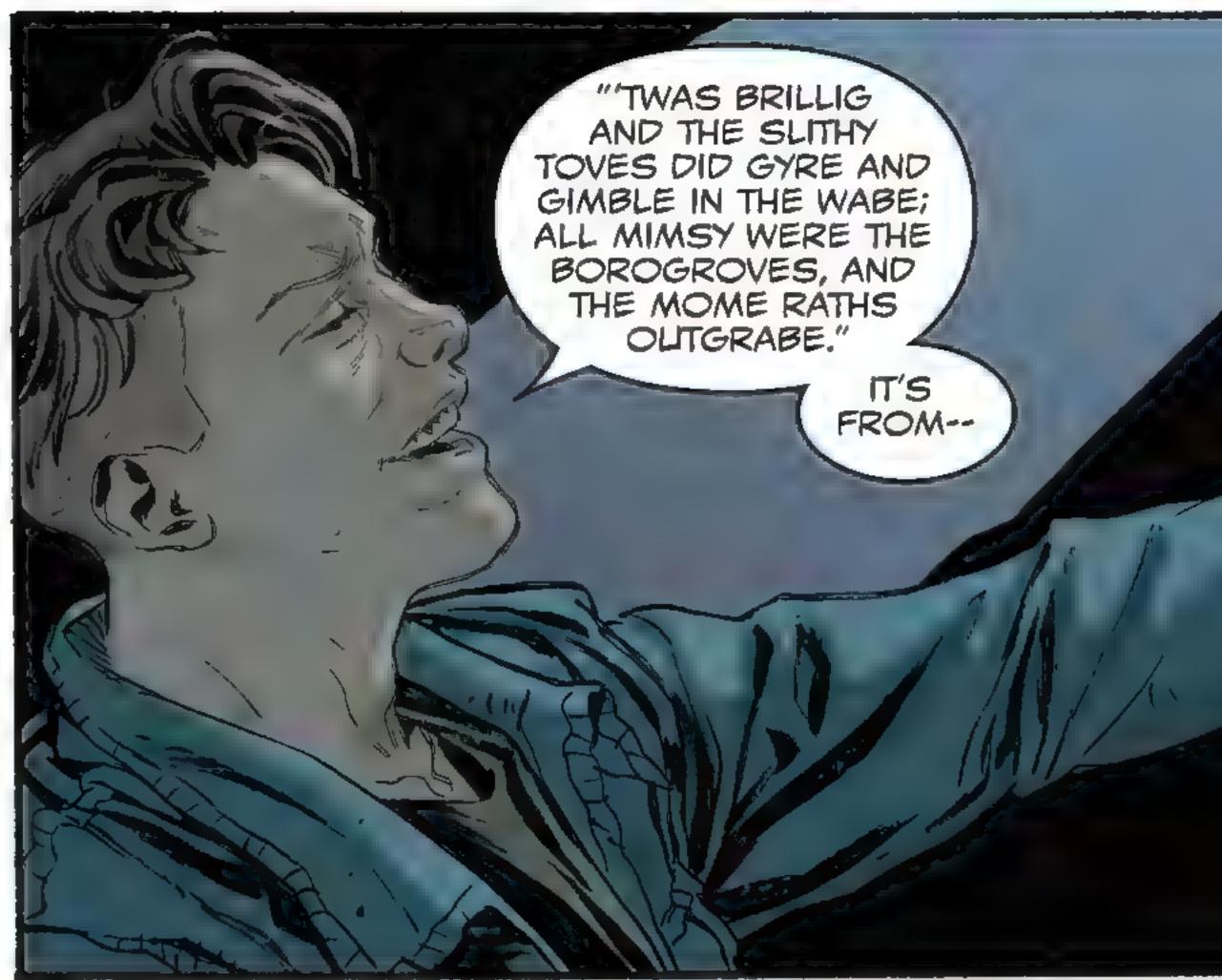










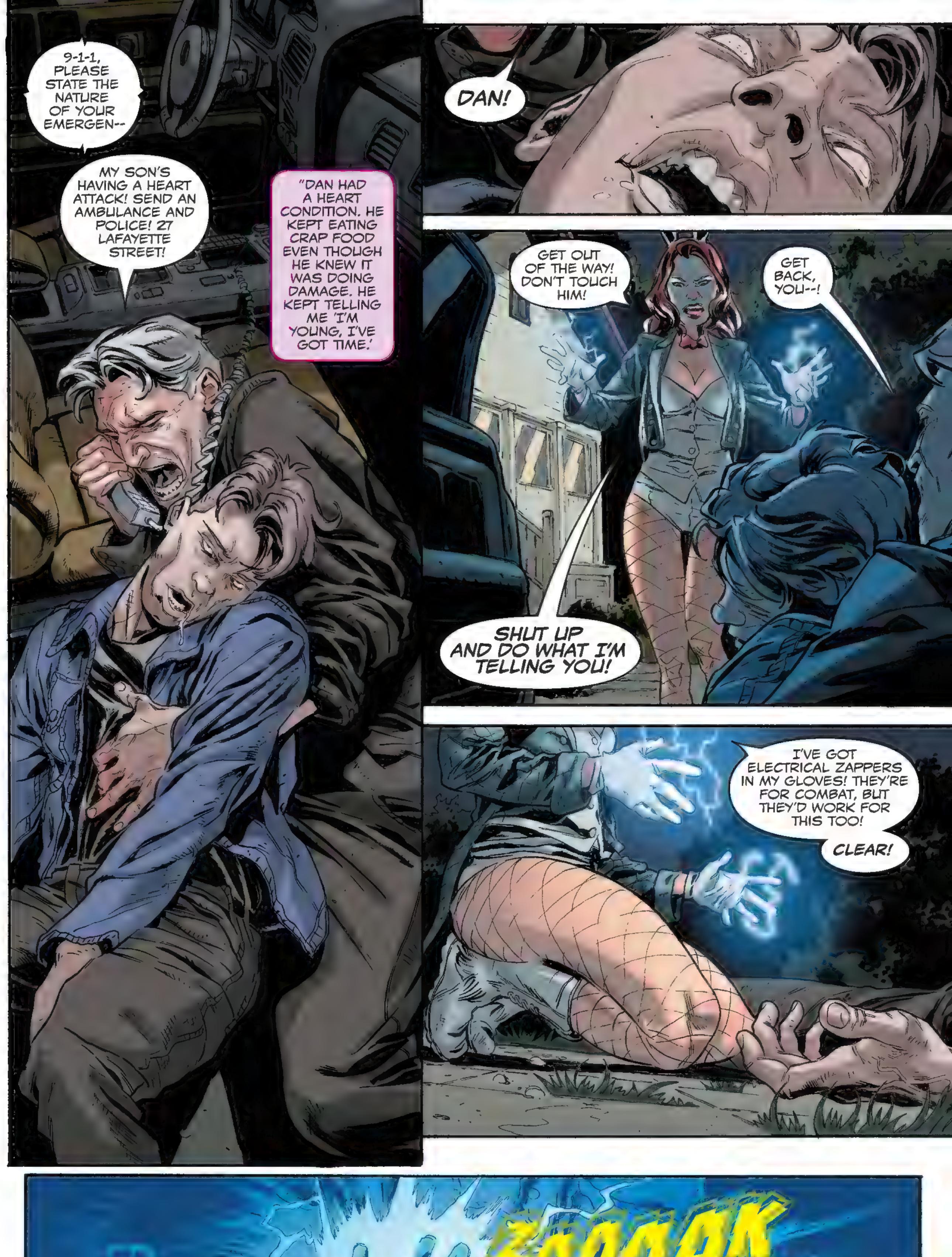














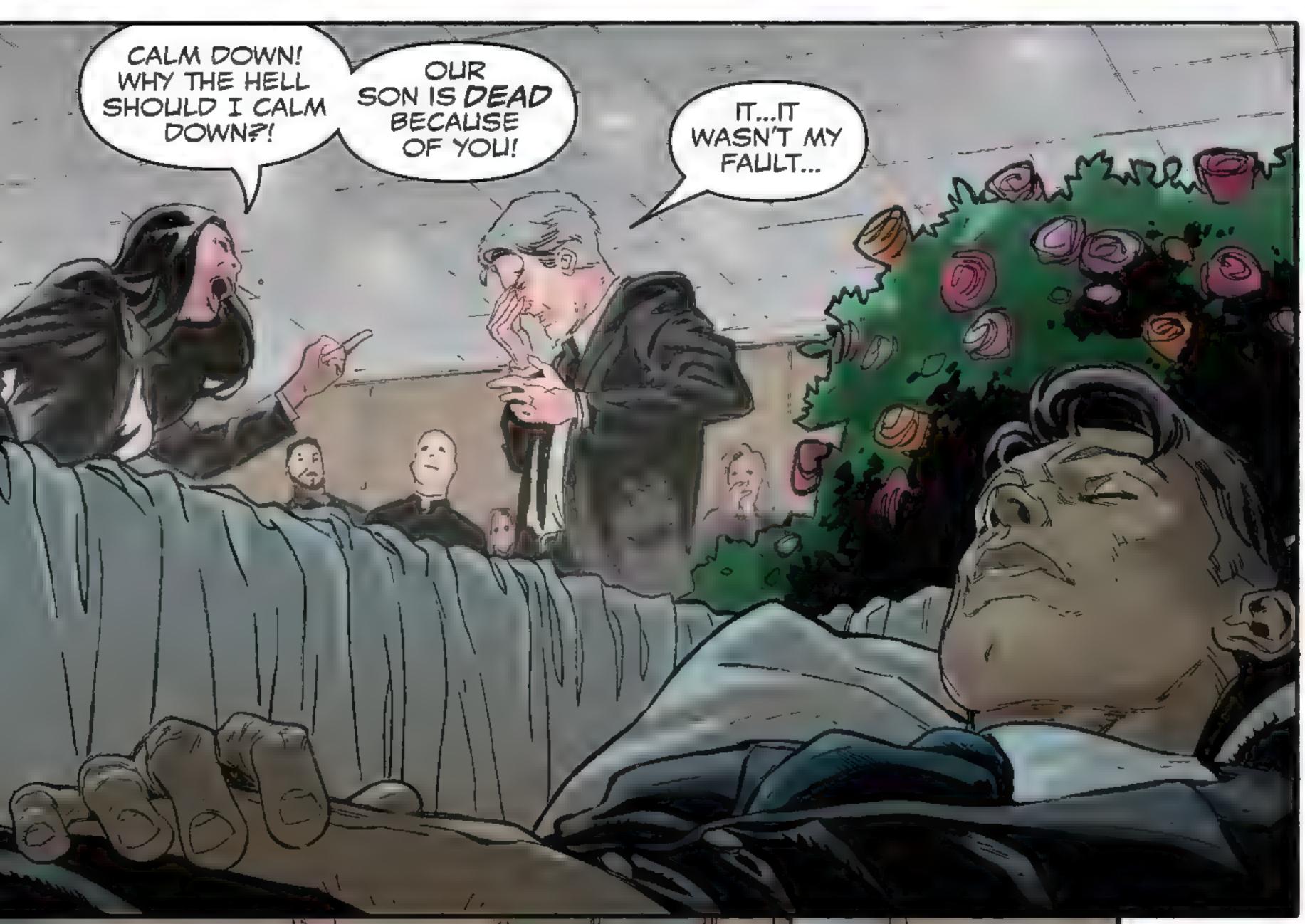






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YEAH...
I KNOW
WHOSE
FALILT
IT IS.





























Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea!

AT LAST! ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 is on sale NOW (today, in fact!), and we can finally show the world what Donny Cates and Ryan Stegman and the whole team here at VENOM HQ have been working on since January!

Within hours of the book being on sale, letters started coming in, and it seems like you readers out there in Mighty Marveldom are enjoying things so far!

But don't take my word for it; let's hear from YOU!

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE creative team,

I don't normally pick up comics from my local comic shop on the first day of release, but with ABSOLUTE CARNAGE on the horizon, I decided to take the leap. And I'm darn glad that I did. I was cautious at first on the whole thing being this oversized, overhyped event, but all of you really killed it, and it is worth the recognition!

I absolutely love your art, Mr. Stegman. The expressions of your characters are flawless. One of the things I appreciated in your writing, Mr. Cates, was the despair and desperation within Eddie Brock doing whatever it takes to protect his son, Dylan. The subtle references are great too, like to the former hosts and my particular favorite. The callback to WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #18, in which Eddie pushes Peter onto the train tracks.

I'm starting college very soon for an art profession, and these comics are going to be a part of my life through it all. I also just recently purchased some of your artwork, Mr. Stegman.

Anyway, I cannot wait for the rest of the series and where it will lead. Proud to call myself a fellow Venomaniac, and as always... Carnage Rules!

Excelsior, Dominic

And we're so proud to have you as a Venomaniac, Dominic! Thanks for reading and for taking the leap to go to your local shop!

You should DEFINITELY go to your local shop every Wednesday--not only because you're more likely to get rarer variants if you get to your shop early, but also because there are few places as great as a comic shop on a Wednesday!

PLUS: Shops can be a great way to meet new people! I went to college a few states away from where I grew up, and it wasn't until I was a sophomore that I decided to try to find the nearest comic book shop. AND NOTHING WAS EVER THE SAME. My local shop offered a discount club for readers with pull lists, game nights and special sales that you'd only know about by being a regular (shout-out to 4th World Comics on Long Island!)!

It's also precetty much the only ironclad way to avoid spoilers online! I love technology, but the best way to read comics is in print from a shop the day they come out!

Dear VENOM Team.

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE was an awesome book to read, and I'm so happy with all the work and time you put into it to get it right. Donny, the writing you do for VENOM is so fun to read and always has me on the edge of my seat. Ryan, I love taking the time after reading a page to enjoy your art and look at all the detail you put in. I'm so eager to see how things turn out and how characters develop throughout your run, and I definitely hope for more Venomous events.

Thanks again Devin, Nick and everyone for making this happen!

From RI, Hunter T.

I didn't allow ANY OF THIS, HUNTER! The Venom train is just a force of nature that can't be stopped!

Kidding aside, the person you should be thanking is yourself--and everyone who's been going to the shops month in, month out and picking up VENOM and WEB OF VENOM.

The best way to tell everyone here at Marvel which books you like is with your dollars, and VENOM is no exception!

Plus: This editing gig keeps a roof over my head--so, in all seriousness, THANK YOU!

HI ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,

All I can say is I absolutely love the writing of Donny Cates. It seems everything he touches turns to gold--from "Thanos Wins" to COSMIC GHOST RIDER and now this ABSOLUTE CARNAGE event, it's all absolutely amazing. As someone who hasn't completely kept up to date on everything going on with VENOM, I was immediately hyped by the opening pages promptly telling the reader what's up with Knull, the symbiotes and the threat of Carnage coming RIGHT NOW!

I'm hooked, I'm in, I'm ready to read more and more of this event and anything else Cates and the team delivers.

Carnage rules! Kazden R.

Thanks for reading and for writing, Kazden! I'd DEFINITELY recommend going back and catching up on VENOM, especially if you dug what's going down in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE. Not only do those past issues of VENOM set the stage for everything that's unfolding in the event, but we were also lucky enough to be joined by a group of incredibly talented collaborators who contributed to the book while Donny and Ryan were working on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1.

Joshua Cassara came aboard and illustrated a portion of VENOM #11 and the entirety of VENOM #12--perhaps the two most important issues of Donny's run so far. If you haven't read them, you DEFINITELY should. Not only are they great comics, but they also set the stage for a big reveal in the event.

For our three WAR OF THE REALMS tie-ins, Cullen Bunn returned to the webs, joined by his unparalleled VENOMVERSE and VENOMIZED collaborators, Iban Coello and Andres Mossa!

And with VENOM #16, Donny returned to writing the series with a one-and-done adventure that pits Venom against one of his most meaningful foes in a deeply twisted way. With art by Juan Gedeon and SPECTACULAR colors by Jesus Aburtov, this issue is a special one!







ITEM: Speaking of being joined by collaborators, the ABSOLUTE CARNAGE family was joined by some of the best in the biz for this week's issues--ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN!

I didn't have a chance to sing the praises of the SCREAM creative team in the first issue's column, and I refuse to let another opportunity to do so pass me by!

After WAR OF THE REALMS, Cullen dove right into this miniseries--and trust me when I say he did his homework. He pored over every nook and cranny of the Scream symbiote's past--and even some of Venom's too!--and I couldn't be more excited about the results.

...UNTIL I SAW PAGES FROM GERARDO SANDOVAL, THAT IS! Naturally, we knew the story was great after reading Cullen's scripts, but there's nothing like getting a front-row seat to a comic book getting illustrated, especially by someone as talented as Gerardo! It's so great to have him back in the VENOM family!

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL! Also this week, we have ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #1, a gut-wrenching tale of one of the earliest hosts of the Venom symbiote who WASN'T Peter Parker!

Brought to you by Peter David and Francesco Mobili, this one-shot is a love letter to the symbiote's first appearances and tells a brandnew tale from a special old piece of continuity as only the maestros at Marvel can!

(And if you haven't checked out SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN, you SHOULD! It's chock-full of symbiote goodness, and Mysterio even gets a symbiote makeover!)

((Relax, you maniacs, it never touched his skin and only bonded to his SUIT. He doesn't have a codex.))

That's all the space we've got for this one, Venomaniacs! Be back here in ONE WEEK for VENOM #18, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2 and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE!

Stay Sharp! Devin @edevinlewis